PAGE: 7888

BODY

SUBJECT: LATIN AMERICA BRIEF

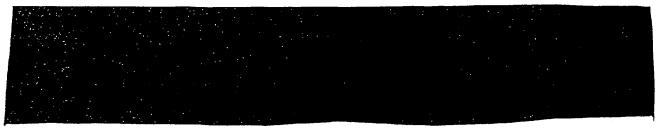
FOR 11 OCTOBER

ITEM

1. HAITI: MILITARY CONCERNS ABOUT UNREST

ARMED FORCES COMMANDER <u>CEDRAS</u> FEARS THAT THE COUNTRY IS HEADING TOWARD CIVIL WAR, INTERIM PRESIDENT NERETTE AND THE LEGISLATURE ARE TAKING STEPS TO SET UP THE PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT.

THE ARMY HAS
DISINTEGRATED AND PREDICTED GROWING CONFRONTATIONS BETWEEN
ARISTIDE'S LOWER-CLASS SUPPORTERS AND UNDISCIPLINED TROOPS. THE
ATTACHE HAS RECEIVED REPORTS OF ROBBERIES, LOOTING, AND RAPE
COMMITTED BY SOLDIERS IN THE SLUMS OF PORT-AU-PRINCE, WHILE SLUM
RESIDENTS ANGRY AT RISING FOOD PRICES ARE THREATENING TO "BURN THE
RICH."



COMMENT: THE MILITARY'S ANTICIPATION OF A SOCIAL EXPLOSION WILL FUEL ITS DETERMINATION TO MO E RUTHLESSLY AGAINST DISSIDENTS, AND MORE HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS ARE LIKELY. ALTHOUGH SOLDIERS WILL BE UNABLE TO RESIST AN EXTERNAL MILITARY THREAT, THEY COULD DISSOLVE INTO SMALL GUERRILLA BANDS. HAITIANS HURT BY AN ECONOMIC EMBARGO COULD ALSO VENT THEIR FRUSTRATIONS ON FOREIGNERS.



SECOFF

